

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01  
FEA-01 ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-06 ERDA-05  
SSM-03 TRSE-00 /104 W  
-----080754Z 112214 /12

R 071449Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4366  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, IS  
SUBJECT: HERUT CONVENTION

REF: TEL AVIV 0022

1. WITH A MARATHON NINETEEN-HOUR SESSION THAT WENT ON ALL NIGHT, THE THIRTEENTH CONVENTION OF THE HERUT PARTY CLOSED ON JANUARY 6. TO NO ONE'S SURPRISE, MENACHEM BEGIN WAS REELECTED PARTY CHIEF AND A NEW CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF 585 MEMBERS WAS CHOSEN WITH INCREASED POWERS. THIS IS HERUT'S LARGEST CENTRAL COMMITTEE EVER AND REPRESENTS MORE THAN HALF THE DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTION. ELECTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE WERE HOTLY CONTESTED. THE COMMITTEE WILL CHOOSE BY SECRET BALLOT THE PARTY'S CANDIDATES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE KNESSET POST THAT THE LIKUD (THE THREE-PARTY GROUPING OF WHICH HERUT IS A MEMBER) WILL OFFER THE VOTERS IN NEXT MAY'S ELECTION. IN THE PAST THE CANDIDATES WERE CHOSEN BY SMALL NOMINATING COMMITTEES. THIS CHANGE IS INTENDED TO BE A STEP TOWARD GREATER DEMOCRACY IN THE PARTY.

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2. BEGIN APPEALED TO THE PUBLIC FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO BAIL THE PARTY OUT OF ITS HUGE DEBT. HERUT FINANCIAL PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN A SOURCE OF KEEN EMBARRASSMENT BECAUSE MUCH OF ITS BORROWING WAS FROM ITS SUPPORTERS WHO WERE PROMISED SPEEDY REPAYMENT AND ARE NOW CHARGING THE PARTY WITH DEFAULT AND BAD FAITH.

3. WHILE WITH ONE EXCEPTION THERE WERE NO MAJOR POLICY SHIFTS, THE TONE OF THE RESOLUTIONS WHICH WERE ADOPTED INDICATED SOME MODERATION. THE PARTY WENT ON RECORD AS WILLING TO SUPPORT ELECTORAL REFORM INVOLVING A COMBINATION OF REGIONAL CONSTITUENCIES AND PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION IN ELECTING REPRESENTATIVES TO THE KNESSET. IT ALSO EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON BORDERS IN THE SINAI AND GOLAN WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A FINAL PEACE SETTLEMENT. IT RECOMMENDED THE ERECTION IN SINAI OF JOINT ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NUCLEAR REACTORS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PLATFORM WAS EMPHATIC IN CALLING FOR THE RETENTION OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP UNDER ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY. IT ALSO ADVOCATED WIDE SCALE SETTLEMENT THROUGHOUT "THE LAND OF ISRAEL, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON JUDEA AND SAMARIA." OTHER RESOLUTIONS CALLED FOR A MINIMUM WAGE LAW, COMPULSORY ARBITRATION IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES, A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE LAW AND A NATIONAL PENSION LAW THAT WOULD COVER EVERYONE AND REFORM OF THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

4. COMMENT: IN THE PAST HERUT HAD OPPOSED HANGING ISRAEL'S PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR FEAR THAT A CONSTITUENCY SYSTEM WOULD GIVE LABOR A MAJORITY. THIS CHANGE IN HERUT'S ATTITUDE IS TESTIMONY TO THE LABOR PARTY'S CURRENT LOW STATE AS WELL AS AN ACCOMMODATION TO HERUT'S PARTNER IN THE LIKUD, THE LIBERAL PARTY, WHICH HAS LONG ADVOCATED ELECTORAL REFORM. SUCH GDFORM IS ALSO A KEY POINT IN YADIN'S PROGRAM WHICH APPEARS TO BE MAKING INROADS IN THE LIKUD'S STRENGTH AS WELL AS THE ALIGNMENT'S.

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5. THE MOOD OF THE CONVENTION WAS DEFINITELY UPBEAT AND THE EXPECTATION OF VICTORY PERMEATED THE ATMOSPHERE. BEGIN'S HOLD CONTINUES UNCHALLENGED IN HIS PARTY, BUT OBSERVERS BELIEVE HE WILL NOT HEAD THE LIST NEXT TIME IF THE LIKUD FAILS TO WIN IN MAY.  
DUNNIGAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PARTY LINE, PARTY ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, PARTY FUND RAISING, DEBT REPAYMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 07-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977TELAV00170  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770008-0144  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** TEL AVIV  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770169/aaaaciwe.tel  
**Line Count:** 104  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** f07b30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 TEL AVIV 22  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3638929  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HERUT CONVENTION  
**TAGS:** PINT, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/f07b30dc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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